

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel original claims 1-16 and substitute the following claims 17-32 therefor:

17. A method for operating a communication network, said method comprising the steps of:

- employing a number of data frames defined according to a first protocol, said data frames each containing a destination address identifying a receiver of said data frame and message data;
- generating a number of data packets for transmission from said data frame, said data packets defined according to a second protocol and each containing a connection identifier identifying a receiver of said data packet and a portion of said contents of said data frame;
- transmitting said data packets over said communication network;
- upon receipt in an identified receiver of a transmitted data packet containing a destination address of a data frame, reading said destination address from said data packet;
- determining a new connection identifier based on said read destination address, said new connection identifier identifying a new receiver of said data packets;
- beginning prior to receipt of all of said data packets of said data frame, generating a number of new data packets from said received data packets of said data frame, said new data packets containing said new connection identifier;
- checking said message data of said data frame for transmission errors according to a predetermined error checking method by comparing a reference data having a rated value and contained in said data frame to said message data; and
- transmitting said new data packets of said data frame that were received error-free to said new receiver.

The method according to claim 1, comprising:

- a) identifying said message data of said first frame;
- b) generating a new reference data for said error checking method, said new reference data being generated by comparing instead of said previous reference data.

The method according to claim 2, wherein said second frame is modified to contain a counter value corresponding to the number of bits of said data frame.

The method according to claim 3, wherein said error checking data for transmission errors and said message data occur contemporaneously with each other at the start of said data frame.

The method according to claim 4, wherein said error checking data packets occurs contemporaneously with said message data at said receiver.

The method according to claim 5, wherein said first protocol is the Internet protocol or a protocol based on the Internet protocol and said second protocol is the ATM protocol or another protocol.

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said new data packets occurs contemporaneously with receipt of said data

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23. The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of:

storing an entry for assisting in recognizing said data packet containing said destination address in a first revaluation memory, said first revaluation memory for storing said connection identifier of said data packet of said data frame containing said destination address.

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24. The method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

after receiving said data packet of said data frame having said destination address, overwriting said entry in said first revaluation memory with said new connection identifier; and after receiving a last data packet of said data frame, overwriting said new connection identifier stored in said first revaluation memory with said entry.

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25. The method according to claim 24, wherein new connection identifiers for data packets of said data frame received after said data packet containing said destination address are identified with assistance of said new connection identifier stored in said first revaluation memory.

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26. The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of:

storing said new connection identifier for said data packet containing said destination address in a second revaluation memory, said second revaluation memory for assisting in allocating said new connection identifier to said destination address.

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27. The method according to claim 23, wherein at least one of said first revaluation memory and said second revaluation memory is an associative memory.

28. A switching unit for switching data comprising:

5 a number of data frames each containing message data arranged according to a first protocol and containing a destination address identifying a receiver of said data frame;

10 a number of data packets for transmission, said data packets each containing a portion of said message data of a data frame arranged according to a second protocol and containing a connection identifier identifying said switching unit as receiver of said data packets;

a receiver for receiving said transmitted data packets;

15 a processing unit for reading a destination address from a data packet of a data frame containing said destination address, and for determining a new connection identifier for a new receiver based on said destination address, and for generating a number of new data packets from said received data packets of said data frame, said new data packets each
20 containing said new connection identifier, said generating of new data packets beginning prior to receipt of all of said data packets of said data frame;

25 an error checking unit for checking said received message data of said data frame for transmission errors according to a predetermined error checking method by comparing a reference data having a rated value included in said data frame with said received message data; and

a transmission unit for sending said new data packets of said data frame that were received error-free to said new receiver.

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29. The switching unit according to claim 28, further comprising:
a first revaluation memory for assisting in allocating said new
connection identifier to at least one connection identifier of a
received data packet.

30. The switching unit according to claim 29, wherein said first
revaluation memory comprises an entry having a predetermined value
identifying connection identifiers of received data packets for which new
connection identifiers must still be generated.

31. The switching unit according to claim 28, further comprising:
a second revaluation memory for assisting in allocating said new
connection identifier to at least one destination address.

32. The switching unit according to claim 29, wherein at least
one of said first revaluation memory and said second revaluation memory
is an associative memory.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

On page 27, in line 1, cancel "**ABSTRACT**" substitute the following
centered heading therefor:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE--;

cancel lines 2-3;

in line 5, cancel "(106)";

in line 6, cancel "the";

in line 7, cancel "(18)";

in line 8, cancel "(102)", and cancel "(104)";

cancel line 11.